



Tempe Public Art



Marilyn Zwak

Tree of Life, 2000

Concrete, adobe,
pigment, and rock

Location: Tempe Town Lake
North Bank

Description: Six concrete tree monoliths, formed in hand sculpted adobe molds and toned with integral color, celebrate the “tree of life” myth overlooking the Tempe Town Lake on the North Bank. Recessed areas in the tree monoliths are filled with colored adobe leaves, etched with the names of donors to the Adopt-A-Tree program and individuals recognized for their contribution to the arts, along with members of the Rio Salado Advisory Commission.

Artist biography: Marilyn Zwak is a self-taught artist, whose background involves design of environmentally related sculptures, painting exhibitions, book illustration and film production in conjunction with environmental support groups. Her numerous public works include an award winning three-bridge design project for the Squaw Peak Parkway in Phoenix and a Navajo bridge project in Marble Canyon. Zwak has served as a panelist for the Arizona State Commission on the Arts and the Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture. She has facilitated lectures and workshops for the general public, artists, engineers and other design professionals interested in public art.

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